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LETTER DATED 27 FEBRUARY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF INDIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to forward herewith a letter addressed to you from the Prime Minister of India, Shri I. K. Gujral.

I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kamalesh SHARMA
Permanent Representative

98-05027 (E) 020398

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Annex

Letter dated 27 February 1998 from the Prime Minister of India addressed to the Secretary-General

I am happy to note that your mission to Iraq has met with the success that we had hoped for. I would like to convey my hearty felicitations on this positive outcome. The success of your negotiations is a tribute to your personal qualities and diplomatic skills.

We hope that, thanks to your efforts, the threat of military strikes against Iraq has ended. Avoidance of military action was one of the priority concerns that India shared and worked for with several countries in the past few weeks.

We are confident that the agreement that you have concluded with the Iraqi leadership will bring renewed hopes to the people of Iraq, who have undergone considerable hardships under the sanctions regime. Women and children have been particularly affected. In this context, India welcomes the adoption by the Security Council of the expanded oil-for-food programme, which, we hope, will be speedily implemented and will assist in alleviating the sufferings of the Iraqi people.

(Signed) I. K. GUJRAL